

Istook Applauds American Airlines’ Reinstatement of OKC-St. Louis Service

Washington, D.C.—Congressman Ernest Istook (R-OK) today applauded American Airlines for the decision to reinstate service between St. Louis and Oklahoma City. On January 31st, AmericanConnection will begin offering three roundtrip flights per day on regional jets between St. Louis and Oklahoma City’s Will Rogers World Airport.

“This enhances the options for Oklahomans to do business around the country and for the rest of the country to do business with us,” said Istook.

Last fall, Istook urged the Chief Executive Officer of American Airlines to continue flights between Oklahoma City and Tulsa and its hub in St. Louis. American discontinued those flights on November 1st as part of its economizing.

Istook told American’s CEO, Gerard Arpey, at the time, **“Even if the number of connections must be reduced, we need to keep some options open, in addition to flights to their hubs in Chicago and Dallas-Fort Worth.”**

Arpey then pledged to re-examine the issue and possibly revise the airline’s plans. The following letter from American Airlines reports the results of that re-examination:

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am happy to report to you that AmericanConnection will restore service to Oklahoma City from St. Louis on January 31, 2004 operating three round trips per day. The new flights will be operated by Trans States Airlines with the 50-seat ERJ-145 regional jets.

When you met our CEO, Gerard Arpey, this fall you asked us to take another look at this market to determine whether service could be restored. We agreed to do so. That review determined that there was enough demand in the market to warrant service, so, when new capacity became available in St. Louis, we decided to renew service to Oklahoma City.

American and AmericanConnection looks forward to restarting this service, and thank you for your strong advocacy on behalf of your community.

Sincerely,

Will Ris
Sr. Vice President
Government Affairs
American Airlines